

SRHV – Aquatic Sedge – Beaked Sedge – Baltic Rush Herbaceous Vegetation (Map Unit 26)



Photo credit: Jim Von Loh



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The Aquatic Sedge – Beaked Sedge – Baltic Rush Herbaceous Vegetation (SRHV, Map Unit 26) represents a combination of the *Carex aquatilis* (Aquatic Sedge) Herbaceous Vegetation Association, the *Carex urticulata* (Beaked Sedge) Herbaceous Vegetation Association, and the *Juncus balticus* (Baltic Rush) Herbaceous Vegetation Association.

SRHV – Aquatic Sedge – Beaked Sedge – Baltic Rush Herbaceous Vegetation (Map Unit 26) Continued

Carex aquatilis (Aquatic Sedge) Herbaceous Vegetation Association –

This herbaceous vegetation occupies low-gradient sites along streams where the soil is saturated to the surface or shallow standing water is present. The distribution of *Carex aquatilis* is zonal, with *Carex utriculata* occupying the most inundated sites immediately adjacent to the drainage and *Juncus balticus* occupying the drier margin at the higher elevation. *Carex aquatilis* Herbaceous Vegetation is found on the first terrace adjacent to the Grape Creek channel and in its major tributary drainages, particularly Boulder Creek. These drainages lie between approximately 8350-8650 feet elevation.

Carex utriculata (Beaked Sedge) Herbaceous Vegetation Association -

This herbaceous vegetation occupies the saturated to inundated zone adjacent to flowing streams and on groundwater swells, where groundwater collects under vegetation and elevates it, creating a quaking bog. The elevation of these drainages lies between 8250-8600 feet. *Carex utriculata* Herbaceous Vegetation occupies low-gradient sites immediately adjacent (first terrace) to the flowing water of Grape and Boulder creeks and their tributary drainages.

Juncus balticus (Baltic Rush) Herbaceous Vegetation Association -

Juncus balticus forms extensive stands on the upper (usually second) floodplain terrace where groundwater is usually from 30 cm to 1.5 m below the ground surface. This herbaceous vegetation is persistent, often occupying floodplain terraces, even after streams have incised and the groundwater table has dropped significantly. *Juncus balticus* Herbaceous Vegetation occupies floodplain terraces of nearly every flowing stream (Grape and Boulder creeks and tributaries) and are also present in the bottoms of moist drainages and swales. This limits the type to the lowest elevations of the monument.

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Photo Signatures

These three associations (Aquatic Sedge Herbaceous Vegetation Association, Beaked Sedge Herbaceous Vegetation Association, and Baltic Rush Herbaceous Vegetation Association) are difficult to distinguish from one another. In the natural color aerial photography, SRHV appears as a complex mix of light green to dark green to brown to dark brown, and in color infrared aerial photography it appears as a complex mix of light to very dark red. In both types of photography, it has a smooth texture and complex patterning. The shapes are linear along narrow drains and oblong in wider drainages. The graminoids are 0.5-1.0 meters in height and have a foliar cover of 65-90%. Photo SRHV-1 (natural color) was taken in September 1996 and SRHV-2 (color infrared) was taken in August 1983. Both photos are of the same location.

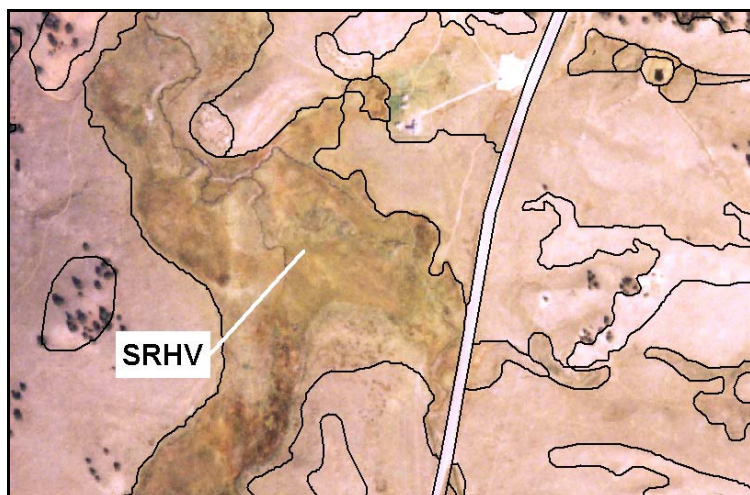
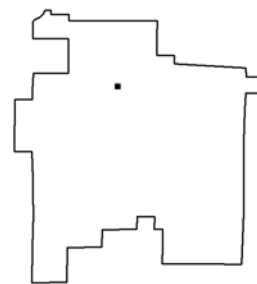


Photo SRHV-1



Location of **SRHV-1** within
National Monument

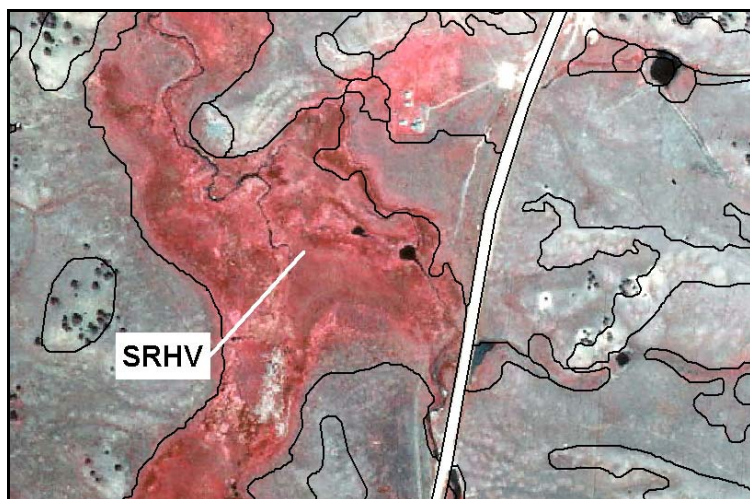
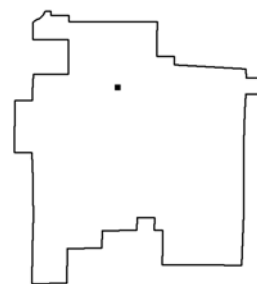


Photo SRHV-2



Location of **SRHV-2** within
National Monument

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Area Report for SRHV Map Unit

Number of Polygons: 41

Number of Hectares: 90.6

Number of Acres: 223.8

Average Size: 2.2 hectares, 5.4 acres

Accuracy Assessment Results for SRHV Map Unit

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The Aquatic Sedge – Beaked Sedge – Baltic Rush Herbaceous Vegetation Map Unit was assessed at 77% for producers' accuracy (confidence interval 65-89%) and at 86% users' accuracy (confidence interval 75-97%).